

**TESTIMONY
DD Payment System
Human Services Committee
Representative Damschen, Chairman
July 30, 2013**

Chairman Damschen, members of the Human Services Interim Committee, I am Barbara Murry, Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers. I am here today to give testimony on the developmental disabilities payment system.

The North Dakota Association of Community Providers is made up of 29 organizations across the state. We represent approximately 6,000 dd staff, 4,900 of whom are Direct Support Professionals, or DSP's. We serve approximately 4,000 individuals, with developmental disabilities. Services are most often, lifelong.

NDACP supports the process that has been in place to develop the new payment system.

- The Department of Human Services and the DD Division have been very open to working with providers throughout the process,
- We feel it will be responsive to the needs of the people served,
- There will be no cost settlement,
- It will have clear and transparent formulas to establish rates,
- And, will ultimately be easier to both the state and providers to manage.

There are a number of areas that we continue to have concerns. Most concerns come from unknowns.

- We can't compare the new process with our existing funding mechanism to know if it will be adequate, because the SIS evaluation has not been

completed on all individuals. Without the completed SIS, there is no score to fit into a funding range or a way to know how the funding will compare.

- The regulatory guidelines, which are yet to be developed, will be a crucial component to the success or failure of the new payment system. New administrative code will replace the current language in NDAC 75-04-05.
- The Department of Human Services has not yet been able to outline their response to the report from the consultants. We don't know if they will support all, or only parts of the recommendations.
- There are concerns over a provider's ability to make paybacks to the State while trying to operate on reduced funds as they transition into the new payment system. Implementation will have winners & losers.
- There are very significant problems with the development of the rate for the day supports, in-home supports, and extended services programs. We have not been able to clearly identify all of the reasons for these problems. For that reason, have not been able to rectify the issues.

We support the continuing process to develop the system, applaud the Department of Human Services for their willingness to work with providers as partners, and request the partnership continue with the development of administrative code and policy. We are disappointed that there continue to be unknowns that prevent a comparison of the proposed funding to current funding.

Chairman Damschen, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.